

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An unsolicited e-mail Internet protocol source address verification method comprising:

receiving at an e-mail authorization system from a source a request for authorization to forward an electronic mail message, the request identifying an address of ~~the~~ [[a]] ~~the~~ source of said request;

authorizing the request with the e-mail authorization system including generating an authorization indicator that indicates the source of said request for authorization;

responding to the source of said request for authorization with the e-mail authorization system ~~to said request for authorization to forward said electronic mail message,~~ wherein a response to said request for authorization includes ~~[[an]]~~ [[a]] ~~the~~ authorization indicator ~~that indicates the source of said request for authorization,~~ and wherein the authorization indicator is sent from the e-mail authorization system to the address of the source of the request after authorization;

receiving the electronic mail message at a destination, the electronic mail message including an address for a source of the electronic mail message and the authorization indicator;

and

handling receipt of said electronic mail message at [[a]] ~~the~~ destination, including verifying ~~a source~~ the address for the source of the electronic message included in the received said electronic mail message against the ~~address said~~ authorization indicator ~~is sent to~~.

2. (Previously Presented) The unsolicited e-mail Internet protocol source address verification method of claim 1 wherein said request is initiated by a source of said electronic mail message and said request asks a simple mail transfer protocol agent of the e-mail authorization system for authorization to send an electronic mail message to a destination serviced by said simple mail transfer protocol agent.

3.-4. (Canceled)

5. (Previously Presented) The unsolicited e-mail Internet protocol source address verification method of claim 1 further comprising performing at the email authorization system an indication generator process in which an authorization indicator is generated.

6. (Previously Presented) The unsolicited e-mail Internet protocol source address verification method of claim 5 wherein said authorization indicator is a unique bit string and further identifies the email authorization system.

7. (Previously Presented) The unsolicited e-mail Internet protocol source address verification method of claim 1 further comprising tracking said source address with the e-mail authorization system.

8. (Previously Presented) The unsolicited e-mail Internet protocol source address verification method of claim 2 further comprising inserting an entry into said electronic mail message with the simple mail transfer agent indicating the address the authorization indicator is sent to before forwarding said electronic mail message from the e-mail authorization system to the destination.

9. (Previously Presented) The unsolicited e-mail Internet protocol source address verification method of claim 1 further comprising:
extracting a request source address from said request; and

utilizing said request source address as a destination address in a header file of a return package including authorization indicator information.

10.-20. (Canceled)

21. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:

a source device adapted to send a request for authorization to forward an electronic mail message, the request identifying an address of the source device; and

an e-mail authorization system communicatively coupled with the source device and adapted to receive the request for authorization to forward the electronic mail message, ~~and respond to the request for authorization to forward the electronic mail message, wherein a response to the request for authorization includes~~ generate an authorization indicator that indicates the source of the request for authorization, ~~wherein and send~~ the authorization indicator ~~is sent from the e-mail authorization system~~ to the address of the source device after authorization.

22. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 21, further comprising a destination device, wherein the source device is adapted to send the electronic mail message to the destination device, the electronic mail message including a source address and the authorization indicator, and wherein the destination device is adapted to handle receipt of the electronic mail message, including verifying [[a]] the source address included in the received electronic mail message against the ~~address the authorization indicator is sent to.~~

23. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 22, wherein the e-mail authorization system includes a simple mail transfer protocol agent adapted to send an electronic mail message to the destination device.

24. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 23, wherein the simple mail transfer protocol agent is further adapted to insert an entry into said electronic mail message

indicating the address the authorization indicator is sent to before forwarding said electronic mail message to the destination device.

25. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 21, wherein the e-mail authorization system generates the authorization indicator.

26. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 25, wherein said authorization indicator is a unique bit string and further identifies the email authorization system.

27. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 21, wherein the e-mail authorization system is further adapted to track the address of the source device.